



LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2010

Week 12:

March 21 – March 27

I. Adoration

1. Invocation Prayer

“O God our Father, renew our spirits and draw our hearts to thyself, that our work may not be to us a burden but a delight; and give us such love to thee as may sweeten all our obedience In Jesus Name. Amen.” (*The Book of Worship*)

2. Adoration through Psalm 12

(We'll use this Psalm, not for today's Bible reading, but for the sake of focusing our thoughts on God)

- Read slowly this passage at least three times and gather a different thought about God's character or deeds each day and translate it into a prayer of adoration.

II. Confession

Pause now and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to your sins and ask for forgiveness.

III. Thanksgiving

List, one by one, things that you should give thanks for.

IV. Scriptural Reflection: Based on the Gospel of John

Reading slowly and reflectively the assigned passage twice at least and consider the questions below each day:

March 21: 4: 1-12

- (1) To the disciples, Samaria was not a welcoming town to the Jews, and it was a place that they “had to pass through” which, as it turned out, was a divine appointment for the Samaritan woman. In your mind, are you at a stage of “passing through”?
- (2) Why was the woman surprised that Jesus asked her for a drink? In what way(s) cross-cultural evangelism is easier and in what way(s) it might be harder?
- (3) Jesus, of course, was thirsty, but what do you think the real reason was behind his asking her for a drink? What can you learn from Jesus in how he chose something as an object lesson and turned it into a spiritual conversation?
- (4) What have you learned about the love of God today?

March 22: 4: 13-26

- (1) What was the living water that Jesus talked about? How did he describe as different from other types of water? Are you now thirsty (answer honestly), and why?
- (2) In order that the woman could drink of this living water, why was it essential that the issue with her personal life had to be first dealt with? Is there any personal issue in your life that has yet to be dealt with so that you will not be thirsty anymore?
- (3) Why did the woman, all of a sudden talk about the place of worship? What is meant by worshipping in spirit and in truth? How can you apply it to your Sunday worship and your attitude toward your place of worship?
- (4) What have you learned about the love of God today?

March 23: 4: 27-38

- (1) How did the woman respond to the message of Jesus? What was her purpose in coming to the well? Why did she leave her water jar behind?
- (2) How does v.6 describe Jesus' physical condition? Did the disciples believe that Jesus might have eaten, judging from v.33? What had happened to Jesus demeanor?
- (3) What is Jesus' food? Why did he use food as an analogy? What is your food today?
- (4) In Samaria, time for seeding is in November/December, and harvest time would be in April. So when Jesus asked them to look, they could only see bare fields at the time; yet Jesus said the harvest was already "white". Read v. 30 carefully. What might Jesus be pointing to and what might the disciples be seeing?
- (5) What have you learned about the love of Jesus today?

March 24: 4: 39-54

- (1) V.6 points out that the time the woman drew water from the well was at noon, a very hot hour of the day, in a desert land. Can you imagine why? And now, she openly talked about her adulterous life. What effect does drinking living water have on a person?
- (2) From what the people of Samaria said of the reason for their belief, can you define "true faith" in Christ? Was that your experience too?
- (3) Was the faith of the royal official "true faith"? How special was his faith, and what can you learn from him?
- (4) What have you learned about God's love today?

March 25 5: 1-9

- (1) Some older manuscript added that whoever first dipped into the stirring water would be healed. If such were the case, why would it not be of God?
- (2) On the other hand, if this was not the case, why would people still line up, including this invalid of 38 years?
- (3) Why did Jesus only heal this invalid? "Do you want to

be well" appears to be a superfluous question. In what sense is it not superfluous, but very important question to this man?

- (4) How special was his method of healing?
- (5) What have you learned about God's love today?

March 26 5: 10-18

- (1) If your friend is an invalid of 38 and is now instantly healed, how would you react to it? Why were the Jews not so over this invalid? What's wrong with them as a people of faith?
- (2) The Jews challenged the invalid based on Jeremiah 17:24 and based on their self-made rule that, "If anyone carries anything from a public place to a private house on the Sabbath intentionally he is punishable by death by stoning." (Barclay, *John I*, 182) What was the core problem of their religion?
- (3) Apart from rejoicing, if you were the invalid, what might you have done besides? Jesus had to "find" him again in v.14. Base on what Jesus said, can you surmise what the invalid's attitude was toward his healing?
- (4) To counter the wrong notion of "Sabbath", Jesus pointed out that "My Father is always at work". What is God doing these days, and why is it not contradicting to His command of Sabbath?
- (5) What have you learned about the love of God?

March 27 5: 19-29

Note: Jesus is explaining in details his relationship with the Father. In reading this section, we need to bear in mind one important thing, and that is although Jesus speaks of the Father and him as two "persons", the separation of the Son from the Father and vice versa is an impossibility, as John 1:18 clarifies, the Son gives expression to the Father, but they are essential one (John 10:30).

- (1) What is the principle guiding the work of the Son?
- (2) Jesus cites two particular types of work that the Father

does through the Son. What are they?

- (3) From what Jesus said in v.24, when does “eternal life” in Christ begin and how?
- (4) Since this is how a person comes to have eternal life, what does v.29 mean?
- (5) What have you learned about the love of God?

V. Meditative Reflection

As we finish our daily reflection based on “Calvary Road”, I would like to introduce you to short reflective pieces, both modern and ancient, beginning with the Celts this week.

March 21

We can love them and forgive them
when their sin does not exceed our own
for we too have been down bumpy roads before.
But when they commit offences outside the
boundaries we have set,
we judge them in a word and we turn them out,
and we close the door.
Myself, I’ve been forgiven for so many awful things,
I’ve been cleansed and washed and bathed so many times
that when I see a brother who has fallen from the way,
I just can’t find the licence to convict him of his crimes.
Chuck Girard

March 22

DON’T SHOOT THE WOUNDED!
That doesn’t mean we turn our heads when we
see a brother sin
and pretend that what he’s doing is all right.
We must help him see his error, we must lead
him to repent,
cry with those who cry, but bring their deeds into the light.
For it’s the sick that need the doctor, and it’s the
lame that need the crutch;
it’s the prodigal who needs the loving hand.
For a man who’s in despair there should be
kindness from his friends
Lest he should forsake the fear of almighty God
and turn away from God and man.
Chuck Girard

March 23**STUMBLING BLOCKS AND STEPPING STONES**
(a song from Wild Goose of Iona)

Unsure, when what was bright turns dark
and life, it seems, has lost its way,
we question what we once believed
and fear that doubt has come to stay. ,
We sense the worm that gnaws within ·
has withered willpower, weakened bones,
and wonder whether all that's left
is stumbling blocks or stepping stones.

March 24

In the midst of negative circumstances we have to try hard to
remember God's promises, remain true to Him, make sure there is
something left to come back to and hold on to.

In Jeremiah's case he bought a field when it seemed a foolish step.

Where minds and bodies reel with pain
which nervous smiles can never mask,
and hope is forced to face despair
and all the things it dared not ask;
aware of weakness, guilt or shame, ·
the will gives out, the spirit groans,
and clutching at each straw we find
more stumbling blocks
than stepping stones.

March 25

To have confidence in God is a hard lesson to learn. When all goes
well our gratitude quickly evaporates and becomes carelessness.
When life is troubled our reflex is to try and right things ourselves,
employing only human reckoning of resources available. Our
greatest strength is not to struggle, but to trust there will be a way
forward.

Where family life has lost its bliss
and silences endorse mistrust,
or anger boils and tempers flare

as love comes under threat from lust;
where people cannot take the strain
of worklessness and endless loans
what pattern will the future weave —
just stumbling blocks?
no stepping stones?

March 26

As Caleb's daughter was an asker, so we need to take courage and
seek for springs not only for our own survival, but that others may
know the life of God. The life ahead of us is new, and it is even the
ancient springs which will bring waters that are always fresh and
new.

We must ask boldly of our Father:
Where hearts that once held love are bare
and faith, in shreds, compounds the mess;
where hymns and prayers no longer speak
and former friends no longer bless;
and when the church where some belonged
no more their loyalty enthrones,
the plea is made, 'If You are there,
turn stumbling blocks
to stepping stones.

March 27

God loves paradoxes and contradictions. When we are weak, we
are strong. Every curse becomes a blessing, and stumbling blocks
can be turned to stepping stones; the valley of Achor where all was
destroyed can be a doorway of hope.

Ah God, You with the Maker's eye,
can tell if all that's feared is real, '
and see if life is more than what
we suffer, dread, despise and feel.
If some by faith no longer stand
nor hear the truth Your voice intones,
stretch out Your hand to help Your folk
from stumbling blocks to stepping stones.

VI. A Time for Silence

You have mediated much today with your intellectual faculty today. Now have a moment of silence (the length is up to you, 5 or even 30 minutes), and ask God quietly, “Lord, is there any important message from you today that I might have missed? Show me, your servant is listening?”

VII. Supplication

Use the following chart to cover people and ministries that you want to remember before the Lord:

	Your family	Other people	Church Ministries	Other Ministries	City & World	Others
Sunday						
Monday						
Tuesday						
Wed						
Thursday						
Friday						
Saturday						

VII. Benediction

“The Lord will deliver you as you repent and rest before Him, and give you strength as you quiet yourself before Him and fully trust in Him.” (Isaiah 30:15, adapted)